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Defense Language Branch

Army Looking forward to New Cabinet Pursuance
of irrevocable National Policy Strengthening of
Planning Board Urged.

(Excerpt from the ASAHI Press Jan. 5th, 1939)

Although the army was eagerly desirous that the KONOYE Cabinet be continually pushing forward, the cabinet having had collapsed, Lieutenant-General ITAGAKI happened to become the succeeding War Minister upon the unanimous recommendation of three Director-Generals. How much the army estimates the real value of the HIRANUMA Cabinet could be said to be a barometer to judge the life of the HIRANUMA Cabinet, whether long-lived or short-lived.

The fundamental theory ruling thoroughly in the Army was completely manifested in the statement made by Premier KONOYE previously regarding the national policy in connection with the new phase of the China Incident. The concrete measures for establishing new order in the Far East are already decided and courses to pursue hereafter are also prepared. We would have to follow these courses merely from now on in order to attain the objective of establishing the new order in the Far East. Accordingly, the Japan's national policy toward China would be unaltered in any case, even if the cabinet might be shifted to HIRANUMA from KONOYE. The army is determined to hold firmly the said

steadfastly unalterable national policy to the utmost. Hence, the army is looking forward the freshness of HIRANUMA Cabinet with rather fresh and undisturbed sentiment toward the formation of HIRANUMA Cabinet.

The army kept a very prudent attitude toward such a hope as the continuation of the KONCE Cabinet. In other words, the army showed its political movement only through Army Minister ITAGAKI. The army kept silent and wished the early completion of the Cabinet formation instead of making any request as to whom should be selected for the cabinet members. Nevertheless, this did not mean that it would keep on this silence to all the political movements of the HIRANUMA Cabinet.

At the present time when the incident had already reached a new stage at which the armed battle became the construction battle, no less strong array would be necessary of the members than that formed around the center of the so-called five-ministers conference of KONOE, ITAGAKI, YONAI, IKEDA and ARITA that demanded a far more closer connection and cooperation between the army on the one and the economic and diplomatic authorities on the other hand, as the economic as well as diplomatic sides had been pushed out of the way and as the mounting production was necessary to carry out the land defense plan for two-sided operations against Russia as well as China.

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The effective realization of the total national mobilization plan is the all-important motive force for the establishment of the New Order in East Asia. The Military, therefore, will first of all require the HIRANUMA Cabinet to see to the further enlargement and strengthening of the power of the Cabinet Planning Board. The desire of the Military is to have the Planning Board quickly reinforced and strengthened to such a state as to become the organ, in effect and true capacity, for the making and executing of national measures and policies, so that the Military may be relieved of all its political cares and come back at the quickest possible opportunity to its proper sphere of activity and duty. It has been clearly marked of late that the Military, in the prosecution of national policies, is desirous to reject the autocracy of the government officials and is heartily welcoming the expression of the people's will. This tendency must be noted as crucial in directing the future of the national development. We have also the military budget amounting over 5 billion yen and some other moves against the coming Diet session. The Military has much to look forward to from the HIRANUMA Cabinet.

昭和十四年一月六日 東京朝日新聞よりの抜萃
不勳の國策遂行へ

陸軍、新内閣に期待

先づ企劃院強化要望

陸軍としては近衛内閣の和平繼續を進め望んでゐたが既に總辭職を見たので後任陸相は三長官一致の意見をもつて板垣征四郎中將の留任となつた。陸軍が平沼内閣をどう見てゐるかは平沼内閣が長命であるか短命であるかその壽命を卜するパロメーターになるだろう。陸軍の一貫した王族の根底は支那事變の新たなる段階に對する國策は先鋒の近衛首相の聲明によつて盡きてゐる。東亞新秩序建設の具體的方針も既に決定し今後進すべき軌道は既に出來あがつてゐる、この上はこの軌道の上を東亞新秩序建設の大道をめぐして進めるだけである、従つて近衛内閣から平沼内閣に變つても我が支那國策は微動だもしない、この確固不勳の國策を飽く迄支持すると云ふ肚に決つてゐる、だから平沼内閣の成立に對しては却つて後くされのたいさばさばした新鮮なる氣持になつて平沼内閣の新貌さを期待してゐる。

近衛内閣の繼續希望といった動きに對しても陸軍は非常な慎重さで臨んでゐた。即ち陸軍は板垣陸相のみを通じて政治的な動きを見せてゐたに過ぎない。

組閣の關係の顔振れに對してもあれこれ註文をつけるようなことはせず沈黙を守つて組閣完了の一刻も早からん事を望んでゐる。しかしそれからと云つて今後平沼内閣の一切の政策動向に關してこの沈黙を守り續けるといふわけではないだらう。

事變が既に新たなる新段階に入つて武力戰から建設戰に移行した現在、外交と經濟の兩部面が全面に押し出されて來てゐる關係及びソ支二正面作戰に對する國防計畫による生産力の擴充等は軍部と經濟、外交の更に一層緊密なる聯繫協力を必要としてゐる近衛板垣米内池田有田の所謂五相會議を中心とする陣容に劣らぬ強力なる陣容整備が要求されるだらう

東亞新秩序建設への推進力は一に國內の國家總動員体制の本格的強化にある随つて軍としては企畫院の擴充強化を平沼内閣に對して何よりも先に要望する事になるだらう、軍の理想は企畫院を速かに擴充強化して眞に國策樹立遂行の機關に迄強化して軍は一切の政治部面から手をひいて軍本來の姿に一刻も早く復歸したいと云ふ時にある、又最近特に軍が國策の樹立遂行に當つて官僚獨善を廢して極力民意の反映を願つてゐる事も今後の動向に注目される更に五十億を超へる陸軍關係の軍事費、對議會策等軍の平沼内閣に對する期待は大きいものがある。